

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	
)	
v.)	CR. NO. 2:06-CR-0089-WKW
)	
FREEMAN STEVENSON, JR.,)	
a/k/a "Poncho")	

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED AMENDED JURY INSTRUCTIONS

COMES NOW the United States of America, by and through Leura Garrett Canary, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama, and respectfully requests that the following Jury Instructions be given to the jury in the above-styled cause.

All of the instructions are 11th Circuit Pattern Instructions, as amended in 2003, except proposed instruction number 20 relates to disjunctive proof of conjunctive charging, with case law in support thereof.

Respectfully submitted this the 10th day of October, 2006.¹

LEURA GARRETT CANARY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

s/Todd A. Brown

¹ On October 2, 2006, this Court amended its pretrial conference order requiring parties to file proposed *voir dire*, jury instructions, and motions *in limine* on October 6, 2006, rather than the previously set October 10, 2006 date. (Doc. #40). On October 4, 2006, Defendant filed notice of intent to change his plea to guilty. (Doc. #45). On that date, this Court set a hearing date of October 10, 2006—today's date—for Defendant's change of plea. (Doc. #46). Based on that setting, the Government operated on the assumption that filing proposed *voir dire*, jury instructions, and motions *in limine* had become unnecessary. On October 6, 2006, after 5:00 pm, Defendant's counsel filed a motion to withdraw, and new counsel filed notice of appearance, and motions to withdraw provisional guilty plea and continue the current trial setting. (Docs. # 58, 54, 55, 56). Because the Government learned of these events on today's date, the Government respectfully requests leave to file the above-referenced filing out of time, on its original deadline.

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ASB-1901-O64T

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 10, 2006, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/EFC system which will send notification of such filing to the following:

Anne E. Borelli, Esquire, Federal Defenders Office and I. M. Winter, Esquire.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Todd A. Brown
TODD A. BROWN

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GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 1

2.1

Duty To Follow Instructions
Presumption Of Innocence

You must make your decision only on the basis of the testimony and other evidence presented here during the trial; and you must not be influenced in any way by either sympathy or prejudice for or against the Defendant or the Government.

You must also follow the law as I explain it to you whether you agree with that law or not; and you must follow all of my instructions as a whole. You may not single out, or disregard, any of the Court's instructions on the law.

The indictment or formal charge against any Defendant is not evidence of guilt. Indeed, every Defendant is presumed by the law to be innocent. The law does not require a Defendant to prove innocence or to produce any evidence at all. The Government has the burden of proving a Defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, and if it fails to do so you must find that Defendant not guilty.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

In re Winship, 397 U.S. 358, 364, 90 S.Ct. 1068, 1073, 25 L.Ed.2d 368 (1970) (The due process clause protects all criminal defendants "against conviction except upon proof beyond a reasonable doubt of every fact necessary to constitute the crime with which he is charged."); see also Harvell v. Naple, 58 F.3d 1541, 1542 (11th Cir. 1995), reh'g denied, 70 F.3d 1287 (11th Cir. 1995).

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 2

2.2

Duty To Follow Instructions
Presumption Of Innocence
(When Any Defendant Does Not Testify)

You must make your decision only on the basis of the testimony and other evidence presented here during the trial; and you must not be influenced in any way by either sympathy or prejudice for or against the Defendant or the Government.

You must also follow the law as I explain it to you whether you agree with that law or not; and you must follow all of my instructions as a whole. You may not single out, or disregard, any of the Court's instructions on the law.

The indictment or formal charge against any Defendant is not evidence of guilt. Indeed, every Defendant is presumed by the law to be innocent. The law does not require a Defendant to prove innocence or to produce any evidence at all; and if a Defendant elects not to testify, you cannot consider that in any way during your deliberations. The Government has the burden of proving a Defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, and if it fails to do so you must find that Defendant not guilty.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

United States v. Teague, 953 F.2d 1525, 1539 (11th Cir. 1992), cert. denied, 506 U.S. 842, 113 S.Ct. 127, 121 L.Ed.2d 82 (1992), Defendant who does not testify is entitled to instruction that no inference may be drawn from that election; see also United States v. Veltman, 6 F.3d 1483, 1493 (11th Cir. 1993) (Court was "troubled" by "absence of instruction on the presumption of innocence at the beginning of the trial Although the Court charged the jury on the presumption

before they retired to deliberate, we believe it extraordinary for a trial to progress to that stage with nary a mention of this jurisprudential bedrock.")

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 3

3

Definition Of Reasonable Doubt

Thus, while the Government's burden of proof is a strict or heavy burden, it is not necessary that a Defendant's guilt be proved beyond all possible doubt. It is only required that the Government's proof exclude any "reasonable doubt" concerning the Defendant's guilt.

A "reasonable doubt" is a real doubt, based upon reason and common sense after careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence in the case.

Proof beyond a reasonable doubt, therefore, is proof of such a convincing character that you would be willing to rely and act upon it without hesitation in the most important of your own affairs.

If you are convinced that the Defendant has been proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, say so. If you are not convinced, say so.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

United States v. Daniels, 986 F.2d 451 (11th Cir. 1993), opinion readopted on rehearing, 5 F.3d 495 (11th Cir. 1993), cert. denied, 114 S.Ct. 1615, 128 L.Ed.2d 342 (1994) approves this definition and instruction concerning reasonable doubt; see also United States v. Morris, 647 F.2d 568 (5th Cir. 1981); Victor v. Nebraska, 114 S.Ct. 1239, 127 L.Ed.2d 583 (1994) (discussing "reasonable doubt" definition and instruction).

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 4

4.2

**Consideration Of The Evidence, Direct
And Circumstantial - - Argument Of Counsel
Comments By The Court**

As I said earlier, you must consider only the evidence that I have admitted in the case. The term “evidence” includes the testimony of the witnesses and the exhibits admitted in the record. Remember that anything the lawyers say is not evidence in the case. It is your own recollection and interpretation of the evidence that controls. What the lawyers say is not binding upon you. Also, you should not assume from anything I may have said that I have any opinion concerning any of the issues in this case. Except for my instructions to you on the law, you should disregard anything I may have said during the trial in arriving at your own decision concerning the facts.

In considering the evidence you may make deductions and reach conclusions which reason and common sense lead you to make; and you should not be concerned about whether the evidence is direct or circumstantial. “Direct evidence” is the testimony of one who asserts actual knowledge of a fact, such as an eye witness. “Circumstantial evidence” is proof of a chain of facts and circumstances tending to prove, or disprove, any fact in dispute. The law makes no distinction between the weight you may give to either direct or circumstantial evidence.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

United States v. Clark, 506 F.2d 416 (5th Cir. 1975) cert. denied, 421 U.S. 967, 95 S.Ct. 1957, 44 L.Ed.2d 454 (1975) approves the substance of this instruction concerning the lack of distinction between direct and circumstantial evidence; see also United States v. Barnette, 800 F.2d 1558, 1566 (11th Cir. 1986), reh'g denied, 807 F.2d 999 (11th Cir. 1986), cert. denied, 480 U.S. 935, 107 S.Ct. 1578, 94 L.Ed.2d 769 (1987) (noting that the “test for evaluating circumstantial evidence is

the same as in evaluating direct evidence”) (citing United States v. Henderson, 693 F.2d 1028, 1030 (11th Cir. 1983)).

United States v. Hope, 714 F.2d 1084, 1087 (11th Cir. 1983) (“A trial judge may comment upon the evidence as long as he instructs the jury that it is the sole judge of the facts and that it is not bound by his comments and as long as the comments are not so highly prejudicial that an instruction to that effect cannot cure the error.”) (citing United States v. Buchanan, 585 F.2d 100, 102 (5th Cir. 1978)). See also United States v. Jenkins, 901 F.2d 1075 (11th Cir. 1990).

United States v. Granville, 716 F.2d 819, 822 (11th Cir. 1983) notes that the jury was correctly instructed that the arguments of counsel should not be considered as evidence (citing United States v. Phillips, 664 F.2d 971, 1031 (5th Cir. 1981)); see also United States v. Siegel, 587 F.2d 721, 727 (5th Cir. 1979).

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 5

5

Credibility Of Witnesses

Now, in saying that you must consider all of the evidence, I do not mean that you must accept all of the evidence as true or accurate. You should decide whether you believe what each witness had to say, and how important that testimony was. In making that decision you may believe or disbelieve any witness, in whole or in part. Also, the number of witnesses testifying concerning any particular dispute is not controlling.

In deciding whether you believe or do not believe any witness I suggest that you ask yourself a few questions: Did the witness impress you as one who was telling the truth? Did the witness have any particular reason not to tell the truth? Did the witness have a personal interest in the outcome of the case? Did the witness seem to have a good memory? Did the witness have the opportunity and ability to observe accurately the things he or she testified about? Did the witness appear to understand the questions clearly and answer them directly? Did the witness's testimony differ from other testimony or other evidence?

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 6

6.2

Impeachment
Inconsistent Statement And Felony Conviction

You should also ask yourself whether there was evidence tending prove that a witness testified falsely concerning some important fact; or, whether there was evidence that at some other time a witness said or did something, or failed to say or do something, which was different from the testimony the witness gave before you during the trial.

The fact that a witness has been convicted of a felony offense, or crime involving dishonesty or false statement, is another factor you may consider in deciding whether you believe that witness.

You should keep in mind, of course, that a simple mistake by a witness does not necessarily mean that the witness was not telling the truth as he or she remembers it, because people naturally tend to forget some things or remember other things inaccurately. So, if a witness has made a misstatement, you need to consider whether it was simply an innocent lapse of memory or an intentional falsehood; and the significance of that may depend on whether it has to do with an important fact or with only an unimportant detail.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

United States v. Solomon, 856 F.2d 1572, 1578(11th Cir. 1988), reh'g denied, 863 F.2d 890 (1988), cert. denied, 489 U.S. 1070, 109 S.Ct. 1352, 103 L.Ed.2d 820 (1989) approved this instruction.

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 7

6.3

Impeachment
Inconsistent Statement
(Defendant Testifies With No Felony Conviction)

You should also ask yourself whether there was evidence tending to prove that a witness testified falsely concerning some important fact; or, whether there was evidence that at some other time a witness said or did something, or failed to say or do something, which was different from the testimony the witness gave before you during the trial.

You should keep in mind, of course, that a simple mistake by a witness does not necessarily mean that the witness was not telling the truth as he or she remembers it, because people naturally tend to forget some things or remember other things inaccurately. So, if a witness has made a misstatement, you need to consider whether it was simply an innocent lapse of memory or an intentional falsehood; and the significance of that may depend on whether it has to do with an important fact or with only an unimportant detail.

A Defendant has a right not to testify. If a Defendant does testify, however, you should decide in the same way as that of any other witness whether you believe the Defendant's testimony.

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 8

6.4

Impeachment
Inconsistent Statement
(Defendant Testifies With Felony Conviction)

You should also ask yourself whether there was evidence tending to prove that the witness testified falsely concerning some important fact; or, whether there was evidence that at some other time the witness said or did something, or failed to say or do something, which was different from the testimony the witness gave before you during the trial.

You should keep in mind, of course, that a simple mistake by a witness does not necessarily mean that the witness was not telling the truth as he or she remembers it, because people naturally tend to forget some things or remember other things inaccurately. So, if a witness has made a misstatement, you need to consider whether it was simply an innocent lapse of memory or an intentional falsehood; and the significance of that may depend on whether it has to do with an important fact or with only an unimportant detail.

A Defendant has a right not to testify. If a Defendant does testify, however, you should decide in the same way as that of any other witness whether you believe the Defendant's testimony. [Evidence of a Defendant's previous conviction of a crime is to be considered by you only in deciding whether you believe or disbelieve the Defendant as a witness, and must never be considered as evidence of guilt of the crime(s) for which the Defendant is on trial.]

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

United States v. Lippner, 676 F.2d 456, 462 n.11 (11th Cir. 1982), it is plain error not to give a limiting instruction (such as the last sentence of this instruction) when a Defendant is impeached as a

witness under Rule 609, FIRE, by cross examination concerning a prior conviction) (citing United States v. Diaz, 585 F.2d 116 (5th Cir. 1978)).

If, however, evidence of a Defendant's prior conviction is admitted for other purposes under Rule 404(b), FIRE., the last sentence of this instruction should not be given. See, instead, Trial Instruction 3 and Special Instruction 4.

Similarly, the last sentence of this instruction should not be given if evidence of a Defendant's prior conviction is admitted because the existence of such a conviction is an essential element of the crime charged. See, for example, Offense Instruction 30.6, 18 USC 922(g), and the Annotations and Comments following that instruction.

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 9

6.5

Impeachment
Inconsistent Statement And Felony Conviction
(Defendant Testifies With No Felony Conviction)

You should also ask yourself whether there was evidence tending to prove that a witness testified falsely concerning some important fact; or, whether there was evidence that at some other time a witness said or did something, or failed to say or do something, which was different from the testimony the witness gave before you during the trial.

The fact that a witness has been convicted of a felony offense, or a crime involving dishonesty or false statement, is another factor you may consider in deciding whether you believe that witness.

You should keep in mind, of course, that a simple mistake by a witness does not necessarily mean that the witness was not telling the truth as he or she remembers it, because people naturally tend to forget some things or remember other things inaccurately. So, if a witness has made a misstatement, you need to consider whether it was simply an innocent lapse of memory or an intentional falsehood; and the significance of that may depend on whether it has to do with an important fact or with only an unimportant detail.

A Defendant has a right not to testify. If a Defendant does testify, however, you should decide in the same way as that of any other witness whether you believe the Defendant's testimony.

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 10

6.6

Impeachment
Inconsistent Statement And Felony Conviction
(Defendant Testifies With Felony Conviction)

You should also ask yourself whether there was evidence tending to prove that a witness testified falsely concerning some important fact; or, whether there was evidence that at some other time a witness said or did something, or failed to say or do something, which was different from the testimony he or she gave before you during the trial.

The fact that a witness has been convicted of a felony offense, or a crime involving dishonesty or false statement, is another factor you may consider in deciding whether you believe that witness.

You should keep in mind, of course, that a simple mistake by a witness does not necessarily mean that the witness was not telling the truth as he or she remembers it, because people naturally tend to forget some things or remember other things inaccurately. So, if a witness has made a misstatement, you need to consider whether it was simply an innocent lapse of memory or an intentional falsehood; and the significance of that may depend on whether it has to do with an important fact or with only an unimportant detail.

A Defendant has a right not to testify. If a Defendant does testify, however, you should decide in the same way as that of any other witness whether you believe the Defendant's testimony. [Evidence of a Defendant's previous conviction of a crime is to be considered by you only in deciding whether you believe or disbelieve the Defendant as a witness, and must never be considered as evidence of guilt of the crime(s) for which the Defendant is on trial.]

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

United States v. Lippner, 676 F.2d 456, 462 n.11 (11th Cir. 1982), it is plain error not to give a limiting instruction (such as the last sentence of this instruction) when a Defendant is impeached as a witness under Rule 609, FIRE., by cross examination concerning a prior conviction) (citing United States v. Diaz, 585 F.2d 116 (5th Cir. 1978)).

If, however, evidence of a Defendant's prior conviction is admitted for other purposes under Rule 404(b), FIRE., the last sentence of this instruction should not be given. See, instead, Trial Instruction 3 and Special Instruction 4.

Similarly, the last sentence of this instruction should not be given if evidence of a Defendant's prior conviction is admitted because the existence of such a conviction is an essential element of the crime charged. See, forexample, Offense Instruction 30.6, 18 USC § 922(g), and the Annotations and Comments following that instruction.

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 11

7

Expert Witnesses

When knowledge of a technical subject matter might be helpful to the jury, a person having special training or experience in that technical field is permitted to state an opinion concerning those technical matters.

Merely because such a witness has expressed an opinion, however, does not mean that you must accept that opinion. The same as with any other witness, it is up to you to decide whether to rely upon it.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

United States v. Johnson, 575 F.2d 1347, 1361 (5th Cir. 1978), cert. denied, 440 U.S. 907, 99 S.Ct. 1214, 59 L.Ed.2d 454 (1979) approved the Committee's former version of this instruction.

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 12

9.1

On Or About - - Knowingly - - Willfully

You will note that the indictment charges that the offense was committed “on or about” a certain date. The Government does not have to prove with certainty the exact date of the alleged offense. It is sufficient if the Government proves beyond a reasonable doubt that the offense was committed on a date reasonably near the date alleged.

The word “knowingly,” as that term is used in the indictment or in these instructions, means that the act was done voluntarily and intentionally and not because of mistake or accident.

The word “willfully,” as that term is used in the indictment or in these instructions, means that the act was committed voluntarily and purposely, with the specific intent to do something the law forbids; that is with bad purpose either to disobey or disregard the law.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

United States v. Creamer, 721 F.2d 342, 343 (11th Cir. 1983), “on or about” language upheld in case in which alibi defense was used by the Defendant; the court “rejected the contention that time becomes a material element of a criminal offense merely because the defense of alibi is advanced.” See also United States v. Reed, 887 F.2d 1398 (11th Cir. 1989), reh'g denied, 891 F.2d 907 (1989), cert. denied, 493 U.S. 1080, 110 S.Ct. 1136, 107 L.Ed.2d 1041 (1990).

United States v. Diecidue, 603 F.2d 535, 548(5th Cir. 1979), cert. denied, 445 U.S. 946, 100 S.Ct. 1345, 63 L.Ed.2d 781 (1980), and cert. denied, 446 U.S. 912, 100 S.Ct. 1842, 64 L.Ed.2d 266 (1980) approved these definitions of knowingly and willfully as sufficient instructions on issue of intent. See also United States v. Kerley, 643 F.2d 299 (5th Cir. 1981).

United States v. Kelly, 615 F.2d 378 (5th Cir. 1980) approved refusal to amplify “willfulness” instruction for the purpose of emphasizing specific intent, criminal motive or guilty mind.

United States v. Restrepo-Granda, 575 F.2d 524 (5th Cir. 1978), reh'g denied, 579 F.2d 644 (1978), cert. denied, 439 U.S. 935, 99 S.Ct. 331, 58 L.Ed.2d 332 (1978), reh'g denied, 439 U.S. 1104, 99 S.Ct. 885, 59 L.Ed.2d 65 (1979); United States v. Batencort, 592 F.2d 916 (5th Cir. 1979), instruction on “deliberate ignorance” as equivalent of knowledge may be given as a supplement to the standard charge in an appropriate case. See Special Instruction 8.

United States v. Stone, 9 F.3d 934,937(11th Cir. 1993), reh'g denied, 19 F.3d 1448 (11th Cir. 1994), cert. denied, 115 S.Ct. 111, 130 L.Ed.2d 58 (1994), “deliberate ignorance” instruction appropriate only when evidence in the record shows that the Defendant purposely contrived to avoid learning the truth. United States v. Arias, 984 F.2d 1139 (11th Cir. 1993), cert. denied, 508 U.S. 979, 113 S.Ct. 2979, 125 L.Ed.2d 676 (1993), and cert. denied, 113 S.Ct. 3062, 125 L.Ed.2d 744 (1993) approved deliberate ignorance instruction when drug couriers avoided knowledge of content of their parcels. See also United States v. Rivera, 944 F.2d 1563, 1570-72(11th Cir. 1991); Batencort, supra, and Special Instruction 8, *infra*.

United States v. Corral Martinez, 592 F.2d 263 (5th Cir. 1979), Model Penal Code definition of knowledge held not to be plain error when given as an instruction, i.e., “proof that Defendant was aware of the high probability that the substance he possessed was heroin [suffices to prove knowledge] unless he actually believes it was not heroin.”

United States v. Benson, 592 F.2d 257 (5th Cir. 1979); United States v. Warren, 612 F.2d 887 (5th Cir. 1980), cert. denied, 446 U.S. 956, 100 S.Ct. 2928, 64 L.Ed.2d 815 (1980) approved instruction in a tax evasion case and a currency reporting case, respectively, defining “willfulness” to mean the “voluntary and intentional violation of a known legal duty;” United States v. Pomponio, 429 U.S. 10,97 S.Ct. 22, 50 L.Ed.2d 12 (1976), reh'g denied, 429 U.S. 987,97 S.Ct. 510, 50 L.Ed.2d 600 (1976). See Special Instruction 9, *infra*.

Other instructions are sometimes given concerning specific types of evidence as giving rise to an inference of guilty knowledge, and some such instructions have been approved (as indicated below), but the Committee recommends that, ordinarily, those subjects should be left to the argument of counsel and should not be addressed in the Court's charge.

United States v. Stewart, 579 F.2d 356 (5th Cir. 1978), cert. denied, 439 U.S. 936, 99 S.Ct. 332,58 L.Ed.2d 332 (1978) approved instruction on flight and concealment as justifying inference of guilty knowledge.

United States v. Barresi, 601 F.2d 193 (5th Cir. 1979) approved instruction concerning proof of falsity of Defendant's explanation as evidence of guilty knowledge; see also United States v. Broadwell, 870 F.2d 594, 601 n.17 (11th Cir. 1989), cert. denied, 493 U.S. 840, 110 S.Ct. 125, 107 L.Ed.2d 85(1989).

United States v. Knight, 607 F.2d 1172 (5th Cir. 1979) approved instruction concerning inference which might be drawn from refusal of Defendant to obey order requiring submission of handwriting exemplar.

United States v. Gastell, 584 F.2d 87 (5th Cir. 1978), cert. denied, 440 U.S. 925, 99 S.Ct. 1256, 59 L.Ed.2d 480 (1979); United States v. Duckett, 583 F.2d 1309 (5th Cir. 1978) approved instruction concerning inference of guilty knowledge which might be drawn from possession of recently stolen property.

But, United States v. Chiantese, 560 F.2d 1244, 1255 (5th Cir. 1977) (en banc) disapproved instruction to the effect that, absent evidence to the contrary, a person is presumed to intend the natural and probable consequences of his or her acts.

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 13

10.1

**Caution - - Punishment
(Single Defendant - - Single Count)**

I caution you, members of the Jury, that you are here to determine from the evidence in this case whether the Defendant is guilty or not guilty. The Defendant is on trial only for the specific offense alleged in the indictment.

Also, the question of punishment should never be considered by the jury in any way in deciding the case. If the Defendant is convicted the matter of punishment is for the Judge alone to determine later.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

United States v. McDonald, 935 F.2d 1212, 1222 (11th Cir. 1991) approved this instruction.

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 14

11

Duty To Deliberate

Any verdict you reach in the jury room, whether guilty or not guilty, must be unanimous. In other words, to return a verdict you must all agree. Your deliberations will be secret; you will never have to explain your verdict to anyone.

It is your duty as jurors to discuss the case with one another in an effort to reach agreement if you can do so. Each of you must decide the case for yourself, but only after full consideration of the evidence with the other members of the jury. While you are discussing the case do not hesitate to reexamine your own opinion and change your mind if you become convinced that you were wrong. But do not give up your honest beliefs solely because the others think differently or merely to get the case over with.

Remember, that in a very real way you are judges - - judges of the facts. Your only interest is to seek the truth from the evidence in the case.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

United States v. Brokmond, 959 F.2d 206, 209 (11th Cir. 1992) approved this instruction. See also United States v. Cook, 586 F.2d 572 (5th Cir. 1978), reh'g denied, 589 F.2d 1114 (1979), cert. denied, 442 U. S. 909, 99 S.Ct. 2821, 61 L.Ed.2d 274 (1979); United States v. Dunbar, 590 F.2d 1340 (5th Cir. 1979).

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 15

12

Verdict

When you go to the jury room you should first select one of your members to act as your foreperson. The foreperson will preside over your deliberations and will speak for you here in court.

A form of verdict has been prepared for your convenience.

[Explain verdict]

You will take the verdict form to the jury room and when you have reached unanimous agreement you will have your foreperson fill in the verdict form, date and sign it, and then return to the courtroom.

If you should desire to communicate with me at anytime, please write down your message or question and pass the note to the marshal who will bring it to my attention. I will then respond as promptly as possible, either in writing or by having you returned to the courtroom so that I can address you orally. I caution you, however, with regard to any message or question you might send, that you should not tell me your numerical division at the time.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

United States v. Norton, 867 F.2d 1354, 1365-66 (11th Cir. 1989), cert. denied, 491 U.S. 907, 109 S.Ct. 3192, 105 L.Ed.2d 701 (1989) and 493 U.S. 871, 110 S.Ct. 200, 107 L.Ed.2d 154 (1989) notes that the Court should not inquire about, or disclose, numerical division of the jury during deliberations but states that “[r]eversal may not be necessary even where the trial judge undertakes the inquiry and thereafter follows it with an Allen charge, absent a showing that either incident or a combination of the two was inherently coercive.” Also, United States v. Brokmond, 959 F.2d 206, 209 (11th Cir. 1992) approved this instruction. See also United States v. Cook, 586 F.2d 572 (5th Cir. 1978), reh'g denied, 589 F.2d 1114 (1979), cert. denied, 442 U.S. 909, 99 S.Ct. 2821, 61 L.Ed.2d 274 (1979).

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 16

2.1

Confession - - Statement
(Single Defendant)

When the Government offers testimony or evidence that a Defendant made a statement or admission to someone, after being arrested or detained, the jury should consider the evidence concerning such a statement with caution and great care.

It is for you to decide (1) whether the Defendant made the statement and (2) if so, how much weight to give to it. In making these decisions you should consider all of the evidence about the statement, including the circumstances under which the Defendant may have made it.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

United States v. Clemons, 32 F.3d 1504, 1510 (11th Cir. 1994), cert. denied, 115 S.Ct. 1801, 131 L.Ed.2d 728 (1995) approved similar instruction.

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 17

5

Notetaking

In this case you have been permitted to take notes during the course of the trial, and most of you - - perhaps all of you - - have taken advantage of that opportunity and have made notes from time to time.

You will have your notes available to you during your deliberations, but you should make use of them only as an aid to your memory. In other words, you should not give your notes any precedence over your independent recollection of the evidence or the lack of evidence; and neither should you be unduly influenced by the notes of other jurors.

I emphasize that notes are not entitled to any greater weight than the memory or impression of each juror as to what the testimony may have been.

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 18

6

Possession

The law recognizes several kinds of possession. A person may have actual possession or constructive possession. A person may also have sole possession or joint possession.

A person who knowingly has direct physical control of something is then in actual possession of it.

A person who is not in actual possession, but who has both the power and the intention to later take control over something either alone or together with someone else, is in constructive possession of it.

If one person alone has possession of something, that possession is sole. If two or more persons share possession, such possession is joint.

Whenever the word “possession” has been used in these instructions it includes constructive as well as actual possession, and also joint as well as sole possession.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

United States v. Hastamorir, 881 F.2d 1551 (11th Cir. 1989) approved this instruction.

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 19

34.6

Possession Of Firearm By A Convicted Felon
18 U.S.C. 922(g)(1)

Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g), makes it a Federal crime or offense for anyone who has been convicted of a felony offense to possess any firearm in or affecting interstate commerce.

The Defendant can be found guilty of that offense only if all of the following facts are proved beyond a reasonable doubt:

- First: That the Defendant knowingly possessed a firearm in or affecting interstate commerce, as charged; and
- Second: That before the Defendant possessed the firearm the Defendant had been convicted in a court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term in excess of one year, that is, a felony offense.

The term "firearm" means any weapon which is designed to, or may readily be converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; and the term includes the frame or receiver of any such weapon, or any firearm muffler or firearm silencer.

The term "interstate commerce" includes the movement of a firearm between any place in one state and any place in another state. It is not necessary for the Government to prove that the Defendant knew that the firearm had moved in interstate commerce before the Defendant possessed it, only that it had made such movement.

ANNOTATIONS AND COMMENTS

18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1) provides:

(g) It shall be unlawful for any person - -

(1) who has been convicted in any court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year - - to ship or transport in interstate or foreign commerce, or possess in or affecting commerce, any firearm or ammunition; or to receive any firearm or ammunition which has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce.

Maximum Penalty: Ten (10) years imprisonment and applicable fine.

When a Defendant offers to stipulate to his or her status as a previously convicted felon, and the Government declines the stipulation, the issue should be evaluated under the balancing test of FRE 403. While there is no per se rule requiring the Government to accept such a stipulation, it can be an abuse of discretion to admit evidence of the nature of a stipulated conviction where the nature of the crime (as distinguished from the fact of the conviction itself) has potential prejudice outweighing any probative value. Old Chief v. United States, 519 U.S. 172, 117 S.Ct. 644 (1997).

Willfulness is not an essential element of this offense. See 18 U.S.C. § 924(a)(2).

The Government is not required to prove that the unlawfully possessed firearm was operable. United States v. Adams, 137 F.3d 1298 (11th Cir. 1998).

What constitutes a prior state court “conviction” is determined, under 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(20), according to state law; and, under Florida law, a “conviction” requires an adjudication of guilt by a jury verdict or a plea of guilty. A plea of nolo contendere followed by a withholding of adjudication by the Court is not a “conviction” for purposes of § 922(g)(1). United States v. Willis, 106 F.3d 966(11th Cir. 1997).

In United States v. Scott, 263 F.3d 1270 (11th Cir. 2001), the Court held that as long as the weapon at issue had a minimal nexus to interstate commerce, application of § 922(g) was constitutional. The interstate nexus was demonstrated by the fact that the firearm Defendant possessed was manufactured in California and had moved in interstate commerce to Georgia, where Defendant was found in possession of the weapon.

With regard to a “justification” defense under § 922(g), see United States v. Deleveaux, 205 F.3d 1292(11th Cir. 2000). The Court held that in order to establish a justification defense, Defendant must prove by a preponderance of the evidence that: (1) Defendant was under unlawful and present, imminent, and impending threat of death or serious bodily injury, (2) Defendant did not negligently or recklessly place himself in a situation where Defendant would be forced to engage in criminal conduct, (3) Defendant had no reasonable legal alternative to violating the law, and (4) there was a direct causal relationship between the criminal action and the avoidance. Id. at 1297. See Special Instruction 16, Justification or Necessity.

GOVERNMENT'S REQUESTED JURY INSTRUCTION NO. 20

Conjunctive Charging

“[W]here an indictment charges in the conjunctive several means of violating a statute, a conviction may be obtained on proof of only one of the means, and accordingly the jury instruction may be properly framed in the disjunctive.” United States v. Simpson, 228 F.3d 1294, 1300 (11th Cir. 2000).

In other words, where the word “and” is used in the indictment to charge a defendant with different means by which the crime was committed, the Government need only prove one of those means beyond a reasonable doubt to convict the defendant.